

LANGUAGE & TERMINOLOGY*

determining the generations.

Issei: The first to immigrate to North America from Japan

Nisei: The second generation, first born in North America

Sansei: The third generation, born in North America to *nisei* parents and *issei* grandparents

Yonsei: The fourth generation

Gosei: The fifth generation

Rokusei: The sixth generation

Japanese or Japanese Canadian/American?

In recognition of those who faced the brunt of racism in the country they were born or naturalized into, it is crucial to refer to citizens as Japanese Canadian or Japanese American and not Japanese. Forced uprooting was both a Canadian and American action, not a Japanese one. For younger generations, thanks to the privileges won for them by their elders, they have no doubt of their citizenship. Taking pride in their Japanese heritage and identifying as Japanese does not negate their Canadian or American identity.

use*.

Internment ●

Incarceration ●●

Internment camp ●

Concentration camp ●●

Second World War ●

World War II/WWII ●

When discussing:

● Japanese Canadian history

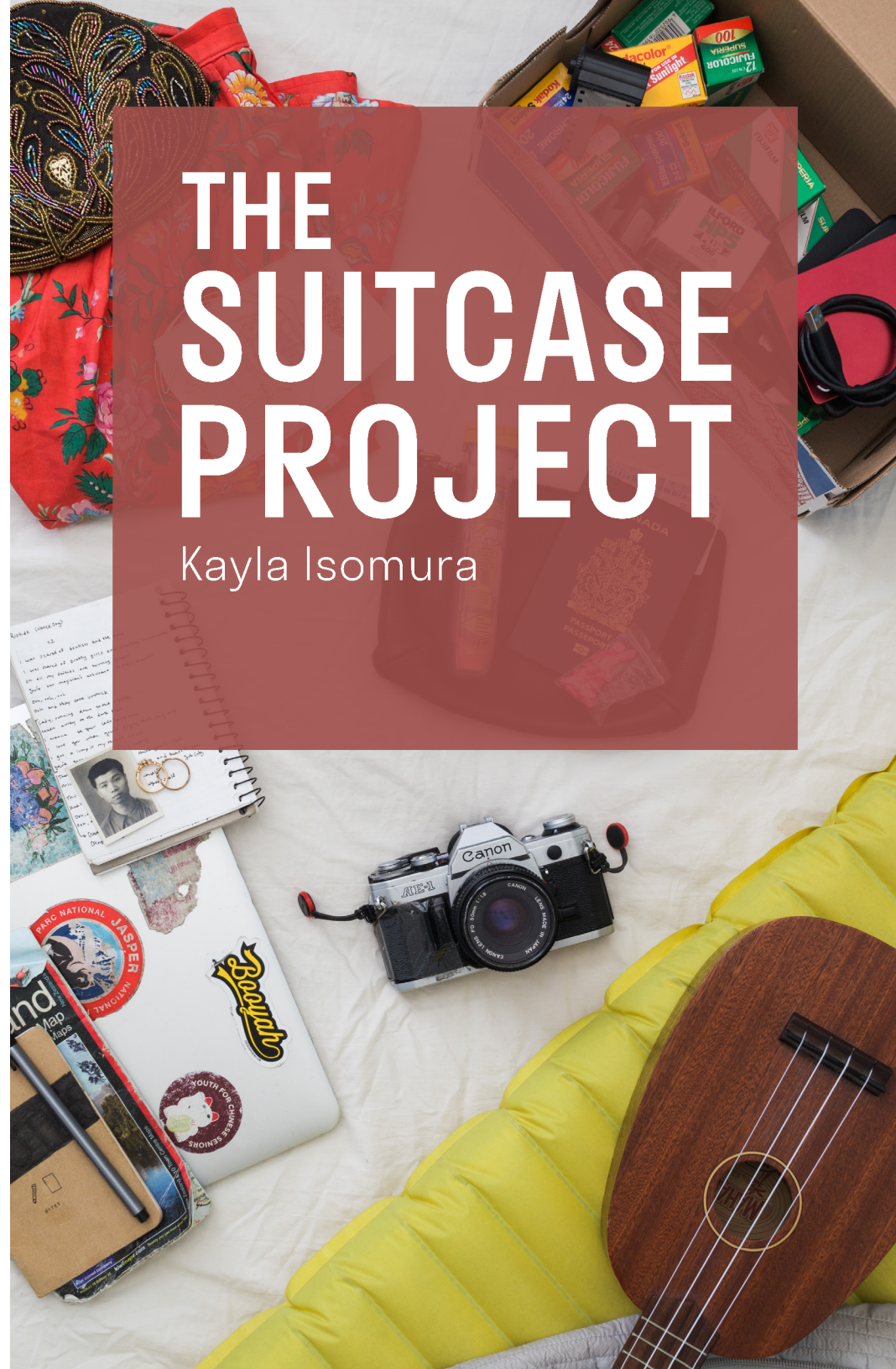
● Japanese American history

**As complex as the history of people of Japanese ancestry is in both Canada and the United States, the descriptive language used is rife with euphemisms and subject to controversy. This is an attempt by curators, scholars, and historians to clarify some of the complexities and nuances, but is still open to debate.*

To learn more about use of terminology, refer to further resources available at the Nikkei National Museum ● and through Densho (densho.org/terminology). ●

THE SUITCASE PROJECT

Kayla Isomura



1905 Asiatic Exclusion League formed in San Francisco, CA. ●

1908 Gentlemen's Agreement stops migration of Japanese labourers in US, restricts Japanese immigration to Canada. Wives of US/Canadian residents can immigrate, begins "picture bride" movement. ●●

1940 Japanese population: 23,000 in Canada, over 150,000 in US. ●●

1946
January. War Measures Act expires. National Emergency Transitional Powers Act keeps JCs in camps. ●
March. Last segregation center closes. ●
May. 4,000 JCs exiled to Japan under "repatriation" plan, lose citizenship. ●

1950 Bird Commission awards \$1.2M in losses, rejects appeal for further claims. ●

1984 National Association of Japanese Canadians passes resolution to seek official acknowledgment, redress. ●

1987
September. United States House of Representatives pass H.R. 442, acknowledgment and redress compensation. ●
October. Public support mobilized for rally on Parliament Hill on April 14, 1988. ●

1907
July. Japanese labourers in Turlock, CA deported at gunpoint. ●

August. Asiatic Exclusion League formed in Vancouver. ●

September. Race riots take place in Bellingham, WA and Vancouver, BC against Asian communities. ●●

1928 Immigration from Japan limited to 150 yearly. ●

1941-1945 *The war years (see right).*

1947 Bird Commission formed to inquire losses through property sales. ●

1948 President signs JA Evacuation Claims Act. \$38M paid, a fraction of income, property losses. ●

1949 JCs free to return to the West Coast, finally granted right to vote. ●

1981-1983 Commission formed to investigate detention program and executive order. Recommendations call for presidential apology, redress. ●

1986 Income, property losses assessed at no less than \$443M. ●

1988 Prime Minister and President make acknowledgments, apologies, reparations. ●● \$21K received per survivor, \$12M community fund established, \$24M forms Canadian Race Relations Foundation. ● \$20K received per survivor, Civil Liberties Act of 1988 signed. ●

HISTORY SNAPSHOT

● Canada
 ● United States

JC: Japanese Canadian
 JA: Japanese American

the war years.

1941

FBI searches JA homes on the West Coast. ● JC volunteers turned away from armed services. Compulsory registration with the Registrar of Enemy Aliens for Japanese Nationals. ●

March. Western Defense Command established. ●

December. Japan attacks Pearl Harbor in Hawai'i. 1,219 Japanese community leaders in Hawai'i and 38 in Canada are arrested. Canada and US declare war against Japan. ●● Compulsory registration with the Registrar of Enemy Aliens for all JCs, regardless of citizenship. ●

1942

January. 100 miles inland from the coast is designated as excluded zone from JCs. ●

February. Minister of Justice controls movements of all persons of Japanese origin in area. ● President signs Executive Order 9066, authorizing exclusion of civilians from any area without trial or hearing. The vast majority imprisoned are JA. ●

March. BC Security Commission established, becomes custodian of "enemy alien" property. ● US Defense Command public proclamation to move JAs out of the west. ● First arrivals at American assembly centers and Hastings Park in Vancouver,

Canada awaiting transfer to camps. ●●

March to October. 22,000 JCs removed from the coast. Men aged 16 to 70+ work in road camps. Women and children sent to ghost towns, internment camps. ●

May. 110,000 JAs are moved from the coast to temporary assembly centers, later to 10 incarceration facilities across the interior. ●

June. Director of Soldier Settlement authorized to purchase and lease JC-owned farms. Permission not granted from owners. ●

1943

Custodian of Enemy Alien Property authority to dispose of JC property without consent from owners. ● 1,200 incarcerated and 10,000 JAs in Hawai'i volunteer for armed services. ●

1944

Prime Minister recommends JCs be dispersed across Canada and not return to the coast. "Voluntary" exile to Japan opens through application. ● JA men drafted into army, most comply. ●

1945

Exclusion orders rescinded. JAs permitted to return to coast. ● 160 JCs volunteer for military Counter Intelligence. ●